

## Migirian Bass Drums/ DW5002 Double Pedal

The strangest thing about this drum is its oval-shaped head, which is produced by Migirian at their factory. The head is made of the same 1000 weight Dupont Mylar used by Remo, and has a silver oval patch, which doubles the thickness of the impact area. Migirian guarantees an ample stock of these heads, in either clear or black. If you need one quick, they will ship overnight if necessary, I am told. The sound of the head is very much like that of a Remo CS head.

The drum hoop is oval, as well, and seems to be made of a polycarbonate material. Instead of the usual T-handle tuners, the drum has hex-head bolts with very large aluminum claws. The bolts screw directly into the shell. Due to the non-skid pads on the bottom, the drum sits a little higher than a regular bass drum. Because of this, I found it a bit difficult to mount certain pedals onto the hoop (ones with a small clamp space). Also, since the center of the batter head is lower than on a conventional bass drum, the pedal's beater post must be shortened in order to hit the head dead-center. Rather than hacksaw my beater post, I lowered the beater as far as it would go without interfering with the drumhead. This allowed me to hit near the top of the oval patch.

Migirian will mount any tom-tom base plate on their drums. The drum I tested had a Pearl *Vari-Set* plate. Normally, on my own 22" drum, I usually jack the tom-tom arms up almost to their limits. Since the *Club* model is 20" high, I couldn't get the arms up to my accustomed height. I suggest that Migirian consider a spacer block, or a raised center section on the drum to deal with this problem.

I used the *Club* model on stage and found it to be louder than most regular bass drums. In fact, the drum is capable of sounding like a much larger, single-headed, conventional-dimensioned bass drum even when the beater does strike above dead center. Migirian supplies a black felt strip for the batter head. A small amount of padding placed inside allowed the drum to produce a thick "thud," while still retaining its original volume level. The drum is easy to mike—the same as a single-headed drum; though you'd probably not

even *need* a mic' in a nightclub situation. The oval head's durability seems to be the same as a Remo or Ludwig head. This, of course, would depend on individual playing techniques, type of beater used, and so on. I am curious as to how the drum would sound double-headed.

The *Club* model retails at \$550; the *Concert* retails at \$650. Both are available in either white or black gloss. If desired, any of 135 other Dupont Enamel finishes may be ordered at additional cost.

Migirian also offers sturdy polyethylene cases for both models. These cases are foam-lined, have double straps, and a single carrying handle.

Migirian has made quite a step away from drums as we commonly know them, and depending on the success of their bass drums, may be introducing more products later on. Either it's the shape of the shell, the shape of the head, or the two combined, but the Migirian bass drum does have a loud, heavy sound.

At present, the drums are available factory-direct. For more information: Migirian Drum Company, PO Box 2524, Detroit, MI 48202, 313-873-4500.

The people at Drum Workshop have recently devised a double pedal for double bass drum licks on a single bass drum. The DW5002 actually comes in two parts: the primary pedal and the auxiliary pedal, each purchased separately.

On the test model loaned to me, the primary pedal was a half-sprocket DW5000CX chain-drive pedal, having double posts and a single expansion spring. It has a hinged-heel footboard and a hex axle. The beater can move the length of this axle, and this feature comes in handy with the double pedal set-up. (For a complete description of this pedal, refer to MD: Aug '82.) The entire pedal mounts onto a large L-shaped steel support plate, which has a ribbed rubber underside, and a counterbar with knurled knob spur spikes.

The auxiliary pedal's frame mounts onto this plate as well. It has everything the 5000CX has, except for the sprocket, linkage, and footboard. Its beater, as well, can travel the axle's length. Mounted onto the base of the frame is a bass drum hoop

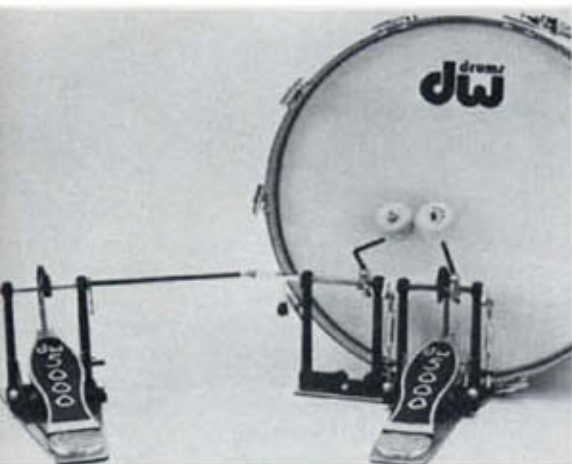
The Migirian Drum Company is based in Detroit, and after eight years of experimentation, has come out with the world's first *rectangular* bass drum with an *oval* head.

The drum shell is handcrafted and hand-assembled. It is composed of high-density fiberglass; felt covered on the inside. Two bass drum models are available: the *Club*, measuring 18 1/2" deep x 25 1/2" wide x 20" high; and the *Concert*, measuring 19 1/2" x 28 1/2" x 2 1/4".

First impression brings to mind the looks of an air conditioner, or even the front of an *Edsel*, since the front of the drum has a chrome, louvered frame, which is able to direct the drum's sound to various locations in a 180° arc. The louver slats are pre-angled to left, right and center, and the entire frame will snap out for easy access to the shell interior.

The bottom of the drum has four six-inch non-skid pads attached, which really do hold the drum in position. To make double sure, a pair of stabilizer bolts screw into the bottom for a secure anchor. Two large grooves are found in the top of the shell for use as stick holders. They'll fit one pair of sticks each.

by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.



clamp for further stabilization. The clamp is slotted in order to adjust for different sized bass drums.

A third frame is used for the left pedal. It is, in fact, the same as a 5000CX, but minus the spring and beater, and it is mounted on its own support plate. This pedal, having a footboard, drives the auxiliary axle, which makes the left beater strike the drum head. The two axles on the 5002 connect via a telescopic, hinged square rod which is adjustable for length and angle, giving you a choice of left-footed positions. The rod is held in place by pin clips, making disassembly quite effortless.

The left beater is bent in towards the right beater to allow closer positioning to the center of the batter head. As stated before, both beaters can be adjusted on their axles for different spacings. Also, the DW5002 is available in a left-handed model.

Both pedals on the DW5002 feel just like a regular, single DW pedal. They have sharp response, and a light, natural feel. The left pedal didn't seem to have as much "whip" as the main pedal, due to its longer axle drive, but this could be compensated for by adjusting spring tension.

The only real complaint I have with the pedal is that the auxiliary pedal tension screw is difficult to get at, since it sits very closely in between the two frames at the bass drum.

I liked the DW5002 very much. The new half-sprocket design gives more toe room than before, and the pedal has all the great advantages of chain-drive. If you don't want the headaches of carting a second bass drum around, you owe it to yourself to check out the DW5002.

The DW5002 auxiliary pedal retails at \$238.00. The primary pedal must be purchased separately at \$119.00 (unless you already own a DW pedal).



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After speaking to Ed Thigpen and listening to the accompanying cassette tape, I've come to the conclusion that this book, «The Sound of Brushes», is an essential element in everyone's educational library. Put it in the section marked «Percussion, Traps, Contemporary». Try it! You'll like it!

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